

## Message Text

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SUBJ QUEBEC FRENCH LANGUAGE PRESS REACTION

TO VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER OF STATE PONIATOWSKI

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF THEIR ANALYSES VARIED, LE SOLEIL, LE DEVOIR, AND LE JOUR ALL CONCLUDED THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF PONIATOWSKI'S VISIT (JULY 3-8) WAS NORMALIZATION OF FRANCE-CANADA RELATIONS WITH RETENTION OF A DIRECT AND PRIVILEGED FRENCH RELATIONSHIP WITH QUEBEC WITHIN THE CANADIAN D FEDERAL FRAMEWORK. LE DEVOIR'S GERALD LEBLANC FOUND PONIATOWSKI'S TOAST TO QUEBEC VICE PREMIER LEVESQUE: OPEN QUOTES A LONG WAY FROM " VIVE LE QUEBEC LIBRE" CLOSE QUOTES. EDITORIALY LE DEVOIR (CLAUDE RTYAN) NOTED APPROVINGLY THAT THE VISIT HAD MARKED THE OPEN QUOTES DEFINITIVE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG FRANCE, QUEBEC AND CANADA. LE JOUR CALLED IT OPEN QUOTES THE END OF ILLUSIONS CLOSE QUOTES AND COMMENTED THAT PONIATOWSKI HAD VISITED QUEBEC TO PREPARE HIS VISIT TO OTTAWA, HENCEFORTH IT WAS OPEN QUOTES QUEBEC FOLKLORE, CLOSE QUOTES OTTAWA FOR IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS LIKE ENRICHED URANIUM. CLOSE QUOTES. LE SOLEIL NOTED EDITORIALY AT END OF VISIT THAT IT MEANT THE END OF AMBIGUITY IN FRENCH-CANADAN RELATIONS AND

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THE MAINTENANCE OF FRENCH RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC WITHIN

THE NORMAL FRAMEWORK OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION AND A CLOSER FRANCE-CANADA RELATIONSHIP BASED ON COMPLEMENTARY INTERESTS RATHER THAN SENTIMENT.

END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH MINISTER OF STATE ( INTERIOR ) MICHEL PONIATOWSKI ARRIVED QUEBEC JULY 3 FOR SIX DAY VISIT TO CANADA INCLUDING FOUR DAYS IN QUEBEC AND MONTREAL AND TWO DAYS IN OTTAWA.
3. JOURNAL DE QUEBEC (NORMAND GIRARD) HAD MUSED ON JUNE 6 ABOUT IMPENDING PONIATOWSKI VISIT AND OTHER VISITS BY FRENCH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN COMMERCE, JUSTICE AND OPEN QUOTES CONDITION FEMININE CLOSE QUOTES AND SUGGESTED QUEBEC GOVERNMENT TELL PUBLIC WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT ON JULY 8 GIRARD CONCLUDED THAT VISIT DEMONSTRATED FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AGREED TO BY BOURASSA AND CHIRAC IN DECEMBER 1974 FOR FRENCH AS TECHNICAL AND WORKING LANGUAGE, INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, TRANSPORTATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMUNICATIONS AND MOBILITY OF LABOR WAS BEING CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER BUT THAT AT PRESENT ONLY OPEN QUOTES EXCAVATION WAS BEING MADE FOR BUILDING THAT WOULD GO UP IN FIVE YEARS CLOSE QUOTES.

4. LE SOLEIL GRUMBLED THAT BOURASSA'S DECEMBER 1974 VISIT HAD HAD ONLY SLIGHT SUCCESS FROM LOCAL POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. THAT HIS TIMID HANDLING OF PONIATOWSKI VISIT SHOWED THAT QUEBEC GOVERNMENT, LIKE QUEBEC PEOPLE, ATTACHED NO IMPORTANCE TO RELATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD AND THAT OTTAWA WOULD CERTAINLY RECEIVE THE VISITOR IN A LESS AMATEURISH MANNER. FRENCH OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO BASE THEIR FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS CANADA ON RELATIONS WITH OTTAWA AND NOT ON RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC. RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC WOULD BE LIMITED TO UNDERSTANDING ON EDU-

CATION AND CULTURE WHICH CONSTITUTED THE CHARTER OF RELATIONS BETWEEN QUEBEC AND FRANCE. BOURASSA INTENDED TO PURSUE THE QUOTES FOREIGN END QUOTES POLICY OF LESAGE AND JOHNSON WITHOUT INTENSIFYING OR BROADENING IT. QUEBEC WOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

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AND OTTAWA WOULD KEEP WELL IN HAND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALATIONS WITH FRANCE. LE SOLEIL CONCLUDED FROM PONIATOWSKI'S STATEMENTS THAT DISPUTES BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC OVER FRANCO-QUEBEC RELATIONS WERE A THING OF THE PAST SO LONG AS PRESENT FRENCH LEADERSHIP IN POWER. LE SOLEIL JULY 10 EDITORIALIZED THAT AMBIGUITY IN FRENCH-CANADIAN RELATIONS HAD ENDED, FRENCH RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC WOULD BE MAINTAINED WITHIN THE NORMAL FEDERAL

RELATIONSHIP AND THAT A CLOSER FRANCE-CANADA RELATIONSHIP BASED ON INTERESTS RATHER THAN SENTIMENT WOULD RESULT. CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES COULD BE HOPED FOR BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA AND THIS WOULD HELP CANADA TO MEET THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE NOT IN ANY SENSE HOSTILE TO THE UNITED STATES BUT RATHER WITH A VIEW TO OBTAINING A SOUND EQUILIBRIUM.

5. COMMENT: WHAT PONIATOWSKI SAID:

A. TO THE PRESS, JULY 4: OPEN QUOTES I SHOULD LIKE TO BE VERY CLEAR ON THIS POINT. WE INTEND TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CANADIAN FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. WE MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. CONSEQUENTLY WE WANT TO HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES, GOOD RELATIONS. WE ALSO INTEND TO HAVE PRIVILEGED AND DIRECT RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC. IT IS THE SECOND FRENCH COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD AND CONSEQUENTLY WE CANNOT TREAT THIS PROBLEM AS ONE MIGHT TREAT OTHERS. WHAT WE WANT IS TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND I WOULD SAY SPECIAL AND PRIVILEGED RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC. CLOSE QUOTES

B. TOAST TO VICE PREMIER LEVESQUE: JULY 3: OPEN QUOTES I RAISE MY GLASS, MR. VICE PRIME MINISTER IN YOUR HONOR, IN HONOR OF CANADA, AND IN PARTICULAR IN HONOR OF QUEBEC FOR WHICH I EXPRESS WARM WISHES FOR HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY. CLOSE QUOTES  
END COMMENT

6. LE DEVOIR'S GERALD LEBLANC FOUND THAT QUEBEC WAS RECEIVING PONIATOWSKI CORRECTLY BUT NOT WARMLY, THAT HIS TOAST TO LEVESQUE WAS A LONG WAY FROM DE GAULLE'S OPEN QUOTES VIVE LE QUEBEC LIBRE CLOSE QUOTES, AND THAT FRENCH RELATIONS WITH QUEBEC REMAINED PRIVILEGED BUT WITHIN THE CANADIAN FRAMEWORK WITH WHICH FRANCE WAS RECONCILED. PONIATOWSKI HAD SAID CLEARLY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND QUEBEC WOULD NOW PASS THROUGH OTTAWA IN THE NORMAL FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFEDERATION. FRANCE  
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HAD JUST CHANGED ITS POSITION IN REGARD TO THE SPECIAL STATUS SOUGHT BY CANADA IN THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, FRANCE NO DOUBT EXPECTED A SIMILAR OPENING IN THE ENRICHED URANIUM AFFAIR. CLAUDE RYAN REMARKED IN A LE DEVOIR EDITORIAL THAT THE VISIT SEEMED TO MARK THE DEFINITIVE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AMONG FRANCE, QUEBEC AND CANADA. HE ADDED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE WRONG IN SEEKING AS ITS INTER-LOCUTORS HEREAFTER IN QUEBEC AND IN CANADA THE MOST AUTHORITY POLITICIANS WHO HAD RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE AN UNEQUIVOCAL MANDATE TO SERVE THEM EITHER IN QUEBEC OR IN OTTAWA. THE QUEBECOIS WHO WORKED IN OTTAWA EXERCISED A DECISIVE INFLUENCE THERE. THANKS TO A MANDATE RECEIVED FROM ALL THE COUNTRY, THEY HAVE HEREAFTER ACCESS TO MANY SECTORS INCLUDING MINISTRIES OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE WHICH HAD REMAINED BEFORE TRUDEAU CLOSED TO FRANCOPHONE PENETRATION. IN THE

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY OF HEADS OF STATE (SIC) TRUDEAU IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED FIGURES. NOW THAT FRANCE HAS ACCEPTED THIS REALITY THERE REMAIN ONLY - SUPREME PARADOX - ONLY THE MASOCHISTS OF A SEPARATISM STRANGELY TINTED WITH ANOTHER FORM OF COLONIALISM, WHO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE IT.

7. COMMENT: 1) THE MAJOR FRENCH LANGUAGE PRESS SEEMS GENERALLY TO AGREE THAT GENERAL DE GAULLE IS DEAD AND WITH HIM HIS PERSONAL POLICY TOWARDS QUEBEC.

2) PONIATOWSKI TOLD HIS JULY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE QUESTION OF ENRICHED URANIUM WAS A SUBJECT WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN QUEBEC BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO BE RAISED IN OTTAWA. CORCORAN

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